

Submitter:

Donna Reid

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB149

I am a retired college English instructor. For the last six months, I have volunteered at Salem for Refugees, assisting in a Pre-Employment English class for newly arrived refugees.

One class had 17 students from five different countries and speaking seven different languages. Their language levels ranged from non-literate in any language to intermediate English. Their educational levels, too, varied. Some had no or very little education. Others were professionals with college degrees.

All of these people came together as a learning community--helping each other, applauding each other's successes, eagerly seeking knowledge.

I urge you to support SB 149 "Oregon New Neighbors Co-ordinated Access Act." Volunteers like myself and donors can only do so much. Governmental support will help these wonderful people achieve their goal of making a good life here for themselves and their families.